

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you work toward Fiscal Year 2018 funding legislation, we respectfully request that any final agreement include language directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) to complete and release the Chief's Report Milestone for the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Brandon Road Study by no later than February 2019.

Recognized as voracious filter feeders, Asian carp were first introduced to the United States by southern farmers in the 1970s to help clean commercial ponds. The fish, however, have since aggressively invaded ecosystems throughout the Mississippi River, overwhelming and decimating native species across the area. The northward movement of Asian carp has created intense concern about the inability to control their rapid spread, particularly as the invasive fish approach the Great Lakes.

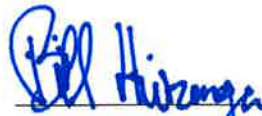
Protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp is of utmost importance and reaffirms the necessity of a timely completion of the Brandon Road Study. The Great Lakes are one of our country's greatest natural treasures and a prime economic engine for the region. It is also the largest freshwater system in the world supplying drinking water to more than 30 million people across 8 states. Asian carp pose a potentially catastrophic danger to the health of the Great Lakes and would disrupt the multibillion-dollar fishing, boating, and hunting industries. Nearly \$400 million has already been spent in efforts to stop the Asian carp migration, including the construction of three electric barriers to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan. These barriers are temporary obstacles, however, and are only partially effective. In June of 2017, a single Asian carp passed through an electric barrier and was found nine miles from Lake Michigan, highlighting the urgency for a solution to this problem.

That is why we strongly urge that any Fiscal Year 2018 federal funding agreement include language directing the USACE, to complete and release the Chief's Report Milestone by February of 2019, the original time frame established at the start of the Brandon Road Study in 2015. With Asian carp on the shores of Lake Michigan, it is more important than ever to comply with this designated schedule without any further delays.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



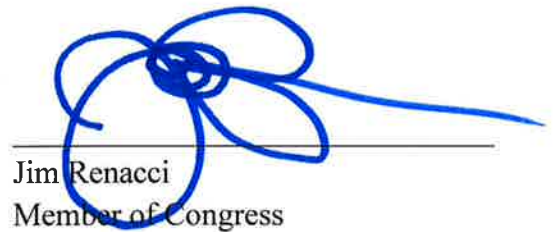
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



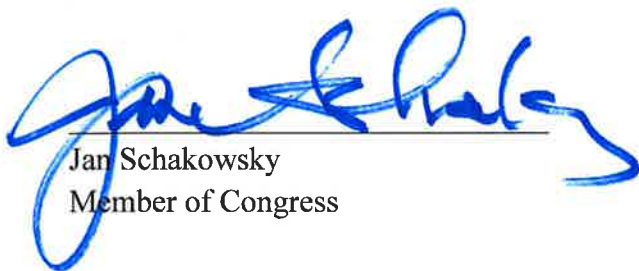
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



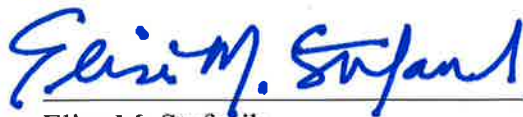
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



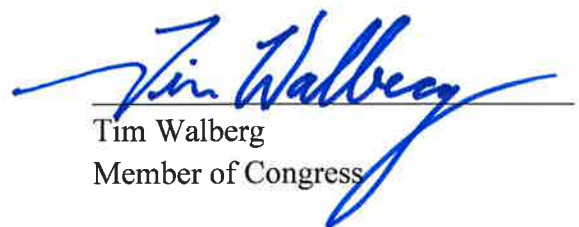
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



David A. Trott
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress